

RICHTER PARK AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

Virtual meeting via Zoom

TUESDAY, February 16, 2021, 6:00 PM

In compliance with Connecticut General Statute § 1-225, these minutes are being provided for informational purposes and are subject to approval of the Richter Park Authority Board of Directors at its next regular meeting.

Chairman John Priola opened the meeting at 6:06 PM.

Members present: John Priola, George Radachowsky, Don LoRusso, Al Mead, Bob Eberhard, Leroy Diggs, Wendy Grispin, Pete Siecienski and Judy Griemsmann.

Also present: Karen Madaus, Business Manager, Jonathan Pinto, Head Professional and Rob Dorsch, Golf Course Superintendent.

Absent: Paul DiNardo and Felix Bonacci.

Public participation

none

Approve minutes of previous meetings

Mr. Mead made a motion to approve the minutes from the January RPA meeting, as well as the 2/3/21 Employee Evaluation Committee meeting, the 2/9/21 Employee Evaluation Committee meeting, and the 2/11/21 Master Plan Committee meeting. Mr. Siecienski seconded. Mr. Eberhard and Mr. Mead abstained from the 2/3/21 EEC meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Correspondence

None

Arts Association Report

No report.

Musicals at Richter

They are waiting to hear from the insurance company before demolishing the stage that was damaged in the December 2020 storm.

The 2021 season will most likely have only two shows, one being a cabaret of songs, and the other a concert of Gilbert and Sullivan songs. Fairfield County Giving Day is coming up on Thursday, February 25th.

MPC-Richter House

There was a meeting on February 11, 2021. The Master Plan was discussed, as well as crucial aspects of the park. The biggest current need discussed was parking. There was also a discussion about branding "Richter Park". The Committee will meet again in two months.

FORe

There was a meeting last week, where the October fundraising breakfast was discussed, with possible honoree Lloyd Cutsumpas, as well as Mayor Cavo speaking. The fundraising walkway was also discussed. Mr. Blansfield will meet with Mr. Dorsch to discuss a plan.

Business Manager's Report

The President's Day sale went very well, and sales exceeded 2020's numbers. People are starting to book golf outings and advance tee times for the season.

Head Golf Professional

Last year's President's Day sale made \$67K. This year's sale made \$91K and then with nine new season passes sold in addition to that, the sale made over \$122,500.

Mr. Pinto got a quote from an HVAC company for the Cafe. The broken compressor is under warranty, so the replacement including labor should be under \$2K.

The CIAC decided that in 2022, High School boy's golf will be a fall sport. The logistics will need to be discussed in the future.

Mr. Priola asked about the plan for renewing tee sign sponsorships. Mr. Pinto said he will audit the current ones to see which are good for 2021 and which need to be renewed. There are currently eight tees available for sponsorships.

Grounds and Greens

The course is in good shape right now, with minimal ice. Hopefully we'll start clearing the greens on March 8th.

Financial report

The 2020 audit will take place from March 30th – April 2nd with a report given to the RPA at the May meeting.

Mr. Mead made a motion to accept the financial reports and have them put on file. Mr. Diggs seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee is looking at the structure and components of the budget.

Chairman's Comments/Report

There was a zoom meeting recently so Mayor Cavo could "meet" the Richter Park Management team and discuss projects that had previously been discussed with Mayor Boughton. These projects included parking lot paving. Mr. Dorsch had gotten three bids, with the lowest at \$150K. David St. Hilaire said that the City may be able to split the cost with Richter. There was a discussion amongst the RPA members looking at different options for this project. Mr. LoRusso made a motion to explore

the percentage shared with the City on the cost of repaving the parking lot. Mr. Mead seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Cavo pulled the names for the 2020 Season Pass drawing. Going forward, he will review the current RPA members, along with all Danbury Authorities.

Old business

Ms. Grispin, as the Chair for the Employee Evaluation Committee, started the discussion by explaining that the EEC had met a couple of times to discuss the Business Manager position. Their recommendation is to make the position hourly and reduce the hours of the position to three days/week from December 15th through March 15. Mr. Eberhard said that March 15th may be too late for the start of the season, and recommended the end date of this change to be March 1st. Further discussion amongst the members followed. Mr. Diggs brought up the fact that overtime hadn't been part of the discussion to convert the position to hourly and should be discussed further.

Mr. Mead made a motion that the position should remain status quo through 2021, and then the GM Committee will meet to discuss it further. Ms. Griemsmann seconded. Mr. Eberhard mentioned that waiting until the end of 2021 is too long, and that any changes should be decided by April 1st. **The motion passed unanimously.**

New business

none

Mr. Mead made a motion to adjourn at 7:31pm. Mr. Diggs seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**